Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 27 as follows. Please cancel claims 2, 20 and 28 without prejudice to continued prosecution. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in ~~represented by~~ SEQ ID NO: 14 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~ that decreases homotypic adhesion among CD66a family members.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1 which is complexed with a carrier molecule or structure to form a peptide conjugate.

6. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 5 wherein the carrier molecule or structure is selected from the group of microbeads, liposomes, biological carrier molecules, synthetic polymers, biomaterials, and cells.

7. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 6 wherein the peptide conjugate binds to cells expressing a CD66 protein or a CD66 ligand.

8. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 5 wherein the peptide conjugate includes a label.

9. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1 which is attached to a label.

10. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 9 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent tag, a radioactive tag, a magnetic resonance tag, and enzymatic tag, and combinations thereof.

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn—Previously presented) A method of modulating the homotypic adhesion of CD66 family members; the method comprising contacting CD66 family members and/or their ligands with the isolated peptide of claim 1.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 which is carried out *in vitro*.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 which is carried out *in vivo*.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating immune cell activation, proliferation, and/or differentiation; the method comprising contacting an immune cell with at least one

peptide or peptide conjugate comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in ~~represented by~~ SEQ ID NO:14 ~~or a biologically active fragment thereof~~ that decreases homotypic adhesion among CD66a family members.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the immune cell is selected from the group of a T-cells, a B-cell, a LAK cell, an NK cell, a dendritic cell, and combinations thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 which is carried out *in vitro*.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 which is carried out *in vivo*.

32-45. (Canceled)